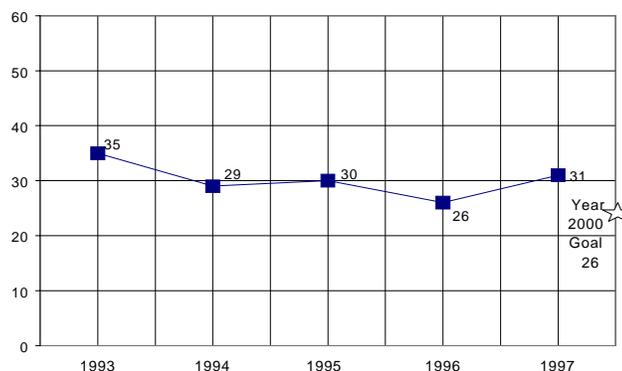


Focus on Community Violence

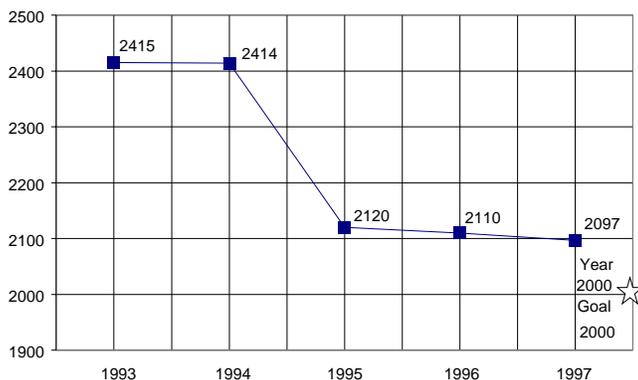
The Community HealthWatch report cards are developed by the Kent County Health Department to present health information that is being monitored by Healthy Kent 2000, a community health committee dedicated to improving our county's health. This report card focuses on violence. In 1995, the Community Violence Subcommittee of Healthy Kent 2000 identified homicide, aggravated assault, and criminal sexual assault as three leading community violence indicators. It was recommended that these indicators be monitored in the years to follow, and goals were established for the year 2000. In 1996, the Violence Subcommittee expanded to become the Kent County Violence Prevention Coalition. The Coalition is active in community violence prevention, sponsoring annual conferences and community events, and publishing the *Kent County Area Violence Prevention Services Directory*.

Homicide in Kent County



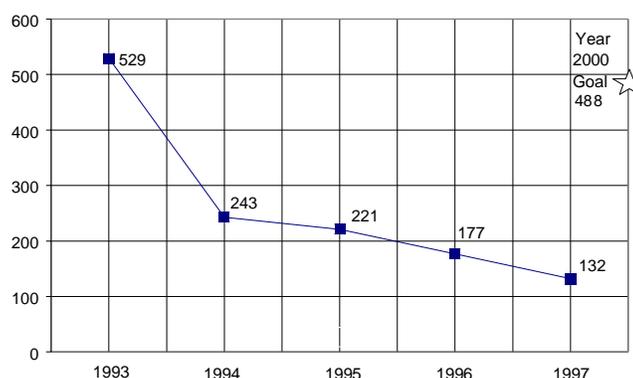
Although **homicide** in Kent County has remained relatively stable since 1993, the disparity between the overall Kent County homicide rate and that of African American males is a great concern. The Violence Prevention Coalition has identified African American male homicide as an important violence indicator. While the three year average (1995-97) rate of homicide in Kent County is 5.79 per 100,000, the three year (95-97) average for African American male homicide is 62.5 per 100,000.

Aggravated Assaults



Aggravated assault in Kent County has been declining overall during the last five years, and is approaching the Year 2000 goal. Growing awareness of the link between substance abuse and violence, coupled with effective community and school-based initiatives to reduce both, have likely had an impact on the number of assaults.

Criminal Sexual Assaults



The overall number of reported **criminal sexual assaults** has declined 75% during the last five years in Kent County. However, as has historically been the case with sexual assault data, it is difficult to determine if the decline reflects a decrease in reporting of sexual assault, or an actual decrease in the number sexual assaults in the community.